

# THE MNN

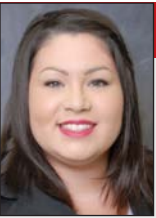
## • EXTRA EDITION •

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JANUARY 2009



Rebecca Landsberry

### Letter from the Editor:

Hensci readers. I hope everyone is fully recovered (or almost) from the holiday season by now. I am already missing the pretty lights gracing the porches of many of our homes, but gearing up for the entirely too-gaudy display of pink and red that is Valentine's Day.

I hear that the Tobacco Prevention program will be selling Native-themed cards and candy for a buck and delivering them around the complex. If, however, you find that openly displaying your love for conversational hearts a bit too much to handle, there is always the option of sending an anonymous card from a "secret admirer" as well.

With the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day on Jan. 19 and the Inauguration of the first minority president in U.S. history following the day after, it is a good time to acknowledge our own tribal leaders and the time, passion and service they have given to the Mvskoke Etlwa.

As such, the 2009 State of the Nation Address is scheduled for Sat. Jan. 31 at 10 a.m., in the Mound Auditorium where the tribe will honor the life and service of the late George Almerigi to the Muskegee (Creek) Nation during the monthly National Council meeting.

If you have news, events or story ideas, please contact the Communications Department by phone at (918) 732-7720 or e-mail me at RLandsberry@muskegeenation-nsn.gov.

## NATION RECOGNIZES CITIZEN, VETERAN AND LEADER GEORGE ALMERIGI

by Angel Ellis  
MNN Senior Writer

OKMULGEE — The Supreme Court Chief Justice of the Muskegee (Creek) Nation ordered a declaration on Jan. 13, 2009 in remembrance of Creek citizen George Almerigi. The proclamation, which was issued after the unanimous vote of all Justices of the Supreme Court, declares Jan. 31, 2009 a day of remembrance for Almerigi.

Justice George Bosen Almerigi was born on Sept. 30, 1933, as a member of the Alligator Clan and a descendant of the Cussetah Tribal Town. It was the dedication and determination of Almerigi in addition to his tireless commitment to Muskegee (Creek) Nation that the Supreme Court sought to honor. Demonstrating superior performance and leadership to the Supreme Court, Almerigi was a loyal citizen of the Muskegee (Creek) Nation.

As a veteran, he served in both the United States Air Force and the United States Navy during Vietnam and the Gulf War, ultimately attaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer. In 1964, he earned a bachelor's degree in business from Long Beach College in Cali., and a law degree from Oklahoma City University in 1983.

Almerigi served with the distinction of being one of few Creek citizens who have served all three branches of tribal government. He was elected to four terms as an



Okmulgee District Representative of the Muskegee (Creek) National Council from 1988 to 1992 and again from 2002 to 2003. In his position as General Counsel and Assistant Attorney General, Almerigi represented the Nation in the Muskegee (Creek) Nation v. Hodel litigation.

In 1996, Almerigi was elected to serve as Second Chief of Muskegee (Creek) Nation. Ten years later, he served as the Supreme Court Chief Justice where he remained until 2008. Justice Almerigi departed this life on Oct. 27, 2008, but his legacy will continue.

## Cleghorn to be tried for disorderly conduct

by Angel Ellis  
MNN Senior Writer

OKMULGEE — Copies of MCN District Court documents reflect that Ronald Cleghorn, Tulsa District National Council Representative, is identified as a defendant in Case No. CRF 2008-46.

The Plaintiff in the hearing is the Muskegee (Creek) Nation. The notification stated that the Arraignment Hearing has been set for Jan. 26, 2009 at 10 a.m. The certificate of mailing was signed and dated for Dec. 23, 2008.

The criminal complaint and information alleged that Cleghorn did, within the

jurisdiction of Muskegee (Creek) Nation, on or about Nov. 22, 2008, commit one count of disorderly conduct.

The complaint further described the alleged behavior as "reckless disregard for the public order, engaging in threatening behavior and address with abusive language Mike Flud."

The incident reportedly took place at the Nation's Mound Building. A list of eight witnesses is being summoned in regard to the incident.



## Free Creek literature class offered

by Ted Isham  
Creek Council House Museum

OKMULGEE — Do you want to broaden your horizons on the wealth and depth of Creek Literature? What is the body of work that comprises Creek Literature anyway? How does the literature inform the actual or perceived worldview of the Muskegee people? Where can this lead us?

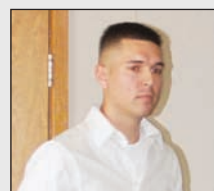
If you want to explore these and other interesting questions and have a need to expand your knowledge base of Creek writers, then this class is for you.

A Creek literature and language class will be taught at OSU-Okmulgee and will be sponsored by Emory University of Atlanta Ga., and the Creek Council House Museum.

**SEE CLASS - 8**

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Editorial statements appearing in The Muscogee Nation News, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of The Muscogee Nation News, its advisors nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the third Friday of the previous month. The Muscogee Nation News reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate The Muscogee Nation News in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed First Class from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence. TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

EXECUTIVE

# Veto aim to improve health system

by Angel Ellis  
MNN Senior Writer

OKMULGEE — Tribal Resolution (TR) 08-110 was sent back to the Nation Council as a veto with objections on Jan. 6 2009. Shortly after disapproving previous nominations to the Health System Board of Directors another approval for the nomination of an executive officer for the health system has been returned as a veto. These three resolutions were not approved for a common reason according to the executive branch.

"A new direction is needed for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System," states the objec-

similar objections in Dec. The veto for those two re-nominations was however overturned by the Council. In the override of Dr. Condren's nomination the Nation Council the record reflected that 14 members voted in favor of the overturn and 10 voted to let the veto stand. The re-nomination of Alef "Nancy" Graham veto was over turned by a vote of 13 in favor of the overturn and 11 voting to let the veto stand.

Shortly after the over rides made by the National Council to place the re-nominees back in their former positions for 2009, Executive

of the foregoing and to ensure the continued effective operation of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation health System in the best interests and for the general health and welfare of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The Executive order further explains the reasons that intervention has become critical. The first reason stated, "In order to protect the general health and welfare of the Nation and to preserve the effective operation of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System." Another finding

was "The Principal Chief believes that there is a need to appoint a replacement Chief Executive Officer for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System, as well as to exercise general oversight authority." Lastly, the order stated, "Due to vacancies which exist on the Board of Directors immediate action by the Principal Chief is required to ensure that there is an operation Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System Subsequent to Jan. 1, 2009.

The Executive Order became effective Mon., Jan. 5, 2009 and copies of the order were distributed to all appropriate agencies and offices.



**"There is a need to appoint a replacement Chief Executive Officer for the MCN Health system."  
- Executive Order 09-01**

tion.

The latest resolution was for the confirmation of Judy Aaron as the Chief Executive Officer for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System. Ellis returned TR 08-110 with objections stating, "The Principal Chief believes that such appointment is not in the best interest of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Objection two stated, "It is the judgment of the Executive Branch that a new direction is needed for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System.

The previous veto of the re-nominations of Alef "Nancy" Graham and Dr. Howard Condren had

Order No. 09-01 was released. Stating "Emergency Actions required for Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System," the Principal Chief assumed general oversight authority over the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System. The authority is defined by the order as "including without limitation the ability, as necessary, to make temporary appointments of the Chief Executive Officer and Members of the Board of Directors of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System. The Principal Chief and his designee(s) shall have the authority to take any and all actions deemed necessary and proper to carry out the terms and condition

## Legal notices

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT COURT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION, Plaintiff, vs. CLEGHORN: Ron, Defendant.

Case No. CRF 2008- 46

**Notice of Hearing and Order to Appear**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation to: Ronald Cleghorn

Tulsa, OK 74119

You are hereby notified that an Arraignment hearing has been set in the above styled case for January 26th, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. You are ordered to appear at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Muscogee Nation Capitol Complex, Okmulgee, Oklahoma at the date and time set.

PATRICK E. MOORE  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that on the 23 day of December, 2008 a copy of the foregoing instrument was sent certified mail to Ron Cleghorn.

Bethany Tankersley

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT COURT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION, Plaintiff, vs. CLEGHORN: Ronald, Defendant.

Case No.: CRF 2008- 46

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AND INFORMATION**

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION comes now Shannon Cozzoni, Prosecutor, within and for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and upon her oath of office gives the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, to know and be informed that defendant Ronald Cleghorn an Indian person, did, within the jurisdiction of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, on or about November 22, 2008, anterior to the presentment hereof, commit the following crimes in the manner and form as follows, to wit:

**COUNT ONE: DISORDERLY CONDUCT (MCNCA Title 14 § 2-903)** Defendant did with reckless disregard for the public order engage in threatening behavior and did address abusive language to a person present, to wit: Defendant did in the Nation's Mound Building order Mike Flud outside to "take care of him" and did make choking gestures to Mr. Flud.

All contrary to the form of the statutes in such case made and against the peace and dignity of the Nation.

Shannon Cozzoni  
Shannon Cozzoni, Prosecutor  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation  
Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 580  
Okmulgee, OK 74447  
(918) 295-9720



# Be counted: 2010 U.S. Census recruiting tribal members

by Rebecca Landsberry  
*MNN Editor*

OKMULGEE — The U.S. Census Bureau is now hiring employees to assist with the planning and implementation of the 2010 Census. The decennial count which aims to get an accurate number of everyone residing in the U.S., including those residing on tribal lands, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam as well as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American the American Samoa will be conducted beginning in March 2010, but is gearing up now for the task at hand.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every 10 years. This includes citizens and non-citizens of all ages, tribes, races, and ethnic groups. This year's theme is "It's in our hands" and efforts have begun to ensure the number of Native Americans is more accurate than in years past.

It is vital that the 2010 Census have an accurate count of tribal nations and American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) communities. Every year, more than \$300 billion in federal and state funds are allocated to tribes and states and communities based on census data.

That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period.

Susan Arkeketa with the Census office out of Tulsa, Okla., has been working with communities throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in order to let the Native population know how important it is to be counted in the upcoming census.

"Right now we are working with Creek Nation and we are needing testing sites within the local communities. There have already been a couple of community centers who have volunteered like the Tulsa Creek Indian Community has already conducted some testing, but the emphasis is on recruitment and jobs. There are potential jobs for people out there who meet the qualifications," Arkeketa said.

The 2010 Census will shape the future of tribal communities, define voices in Congress and impact economic development and other opportunities for tribal citizens.

"2010 seems like a long way away, but really for Census, it's coming up quick. Operations have begun and one of the current things we're doing is we're heavily recruiting in the state for census workers. We're going to be going out and checking and making

sure addresses are correct. That process is ongoing and we need lots of workers out in the field to do just that," Arkeketa said.

Federal and state agencies depend on census data to determine funding allocations for tribal programs and the information may also assist tribal leaders in their planning decision about economic development projects and community service programs. Census data guide local decision makers in important community and tribal planning efforts, including decisions such as where to build child-care facilities, community centers, roads, and schools.

Tribal governments and planners rely on census data to determine where there is a need for social services. This simple, short questionnaire takes just a few minutes to complete and return by mail or to a census taker. In the past there have been challenges in obtaining a full accounting of the American

Indian and Alaskan Native population on tribal lands.

Census jobs provide flexible hours, competitive pay and reimbursement for applicable mileage. Areas of skill to be tested for census workers include clerical abilities, reading comprehension, number skills, interpretation of information and evaluation of alternatives along with organizational skills.

Applicants should bring a form of identification such as a driver's license, social security card or Native American enrollment card to the testing site. Local sites will be available for testing, with information being released as it becomes available. Informational brochures are also available in the Community Research and Development office on the main campus of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

Help your community have a successful 2010 Census. For more information, please call 1-866-861-2010.



## Commission recalls Constitutional Amendment A67

Media Release  
*MCN Constitutional Commission*

OKMULGEE — During the process of developing a ballot for a Constitutional Referendum Election as required by the Constitution, it became apparent to the Constitutional Amendment Commission certain proposed amendments unintentionally would void and remove critical constitutional language absolutely required for the continued function of this government. Proposed Amendment A67 therefore was not certified to the Principal Chief for submission to the voters.

The United States Congress enacted The Federal Indian Civil Rights Act, 25 United States Code § 1302 (8). This federal law imposes upon Indian tribes the requirement of equal protection of the laws. Equal protection requires that persons similarly situated be treated alike under the law.

United States federal courts have held that the equal protection and due process clauses of the Indian Civil Rights Act apply to tribal elections. Tribal citizens have brought suit claiming the tribal council was malapportioned and that they were under represented on the tribal council because the malapportionment violated

the one-man, one-vote principal and denied them equal protection of the laws as guaranteed by the Indian Civil Rights Act.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment A67 purports to establish 16 National Council seats comprised of two representatives per district, a scheme that does not provide equal representation based on district populations to all citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

The proposed amendment does not establish any method of apportionment to assure equal representation between districts. Districts with small populations are allocated the same number of representatives as the heavily populated districts. The end result is districts with larger populations are not equally represented in comparison to the smaller districts, which is not consistent with notions of equal protection of the laws as guaranteed by the Indian Civil Rights Act.

Proposed amendment A67 does not establish a means of apportionment to assure equal protection to all members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is fatally flawed. Two representatives for each district, regardless of population,

results in an imbalance in representation.

Reducing the size of the National Council may be accomplished if there is a system of reapportionment or redistricting employed which would guarantee equal representation for all citizens.

Further, proposed amendment A67, eliminates the following current constitutional language:

(a) Each representative shall be elected by a vote of the district and shall hold office four (4) years. These terms of office shall be staggered to ensure that one-half of the Council stands for election every two (2) years. Beginning with the first election after this amendment is approved, those persons filing for B and D Council seats shall serve for a period of two (2) years and those persons filing for A, C and E Council seats shall serve for a period of four (4) years. The B and D seats will stand for election in two (2) years at which time the B and D seats shall commence a four -year term.

(b) Each representative shall be a legal resident of his/her district for one full calendar year, prior to filing for office and shall be required to be an actual full

time resident within that district for the term of office. When the representative ceases to be an actual resident of the district, they disqualify themselves as a representative of that district.

(c) No person shall be a representative who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) and hold full citizenship nor has a felony conviction within the past ten (10) years as of date of filing for candidacy, in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(d) The Muscogee (Creek) National Council shall elect from their numbers a Speaker, who shall preside over the Muscogee (Creek) National Council but shall have no vote unless the National Council be equally divided, and they shall choose a Second Speaker, who shall preside in the absence of the Speaker. Without subsection (a), (b), (c) and (d) there would be no constitutional provisions for setting National Council terms of office, staggering of terms of office,

National Council residency requirements, National Council age requirement, National Council full citizenship requirement, felony prohibition, election of Speaker and Second Speaker.

## Committee Meetings

### Business / Governmental

Steve Bruner - Chairman  
Pete Beaver - Vice-Chair  
Larry Cahwee  
Selina Jayne-Dornan  
David Nichols  
Travis Scott  
Paula Willits

**Meetings:** Thursday prior to Planning Session at 6 p.m., in the Council chambers.

### Tribal Affairs

Bill S. Fife - Chairman  
Sam Alexander - Vice-Chair  
David Hill  
Adam Jones  
Eddie LaGrone  
Carmin Tecumseh

**Meetings:** Third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m., in the Council chambers.

### Human Development

Johnnie Greene - Chairman  
Darrell Proctor - Vice Chair  
Shirlene Ade  
Ron Cleghorn  
James Jennings  
Keeper Johnson

**Meetings:** 1st Monday at 7 p.m., in the Council chambers.

### Community Services / Cultural

Cherrah Quiett - Chairman  
Roger Barnett- Vice Chair  
Terrie Anderson  
Robert Hufft  
Kara Medina  
Lena Wind

**Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., in the Council chambers.

LEGISLATIVE



• **Yardeka hosts economic development lecture**

YARDEKA – The Yardeka Indian Community will host a community economic development training session on Sat., Jan. 24 at the Yardeka Indian Community Center.

The meeting will begin at 10 a.m., and last through the afternoon at 2 p.m. All community members are invited to attend.

Lunch will be provided by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Research and Development Office.

For more information, please contact Community Research and Development (918) 732 - 7963.

• **Tulsa Indian Art Festival looking for volunteers**

TULSA – The Tulsa Indian Art Festival will be held Feb. 13th, 14th and 15th this year at the new Bixby Spirit Bank Center just east of Memorial on 104th.

It will be a great facility with free parking, free admission and a free signed poster for all volunteers. It is a great opportunity to enjoy story-telling, music, dance, an auction and Indian tacos and fry bread.

The arts and crafts include well known artists such as featured artist, Jon Tiger along with young adult art, sculpture, painting, jewelry and much more.

Volunteers are needed for various aspects and times of the event. For more information, contact Linda McClain by e-mail at [mcclaintulsa@aol.com](mailto:mcclaintulsa@aol.com) or call (918) 299-6967.

# Creek veteran speaks on Operation Iraqi Freedom

by Rebecca Landsberry  
MNN Editor

CHECOTAH — Creek citizen Kellen Bible, a First Lieutenant in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, spoke at the monthly Checotah Chamber of Commerce luncheon held on Tues., Jan. 13.

As a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Bible spoke about his experience with building beneficial partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi forces.

According to Bible, American troops can provide useful training for the Iraqis, allowing them a greater opportunity for success after the U.S. presence has left the country.

“The Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines compose various transition teams to ‘advise, mentor, and train’ Iraqi Army soldiers and Iraqi Policemen,” Bible said.

The Marines stationed at Al Asad, Iraq have partnered with the 7th Iraqi Army Infantry Division at Camp Mejid in order to train them in basic areas of logistics including health services, weapons maintenance, bulk fuel operations, motor transportation maintenance and food services. Despite some obstacles with communication, Bible asserts there is progress being made



MNN/Rebecca Landsberry

U. S. Marine Corps., First Lieutenant Kellen Bible spoke to the Checotah Chamber of Commerce on the benefits of building partnerships with Iraqi forces

by working together.

“The goal was to replace our Marines with Iraqi counterparts so that we didn’t have to send over any of our guys to be in harm’s way and at the same time, we gave ownership back to the

Iraqis. We’re starting to get away from being the trainers for the Iraqis and now becoming mentors and advisors to them,” Bible stated.

By enabling the Iraqi forces to help themselves, U.S. forces involved

in Operation Iraqi Freedom may ultimately benefit both countries. “We want to support the foundation of the Iraqi government where they have democracy and freedom,” Bible said.

## Oklahoma City Muscogee Association hosts annual Christmas dinner

by Marsha Chibitty  
Oklahoma City Muscogee Association

OKLAHOMA CITY — The OCMA (Oklahoma City Muscogee Association) held their Annual Christmas Dinner on Dec. 5, 2008. The event was held at Glorieta Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

The attendance to this event by children, adults and elders was overwhelming this year. The children had a great time sitting on Santa’s lap and telling him what they wanted for Christmas. After the great meal, Christmas carols were sung by all.

Special guests included Muscogee (Creek) National Council Representatives Ron Cleghorn, Shirlene Ade, and Kara Medina. The Citizenship Board was present to enroll new tribal members. Representatives of the Duck Creek Community were also in attendance. They have been great supporters of the OCMA.

The OCMA wanted to show their appreciation to the Duck Creek Community by presenting to them a one-of-a-kind piece of pottery made by tribal member



Photo courtesy of Marsha Chibitty

The Oklahoma City Muscogee Association hosted their annual Christmas dinner at Glorieta Baptist Church where members of the Muscogee National Council and Duck Creek Indian Community members gathered to celebrate the season. Pictured left to right are Allen Yargee, Cecil Harry and Scott Roberts.

and renowned potter, Scott Roberts, who along with, Allen Yargee, OCMA Chairman and Tresa Gouge, Vice Chair, made the presentation.

Mvto to Event Coordinator,

Mike Tiger. Because of his hard work and help from his committee, everyone left this year’s event with a good meal, good fellowship and thoughts of a Merry Christmas.

## The 35th annual Creek Festival goes Green

by Brian On-The-Hill  
MCN Tourism and Recreation

OKMULGEE — The 35th Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival is proud to announce its efforts to go Green in 2009. Several recycling receptacles will be placed in various locations throughout the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee to collect aluminum cans and plastic bottles.

Look for the receptacles of different colors in addition to signs informing visitors of which containers to place recyclable materials in. As usual, regular trash receptacles will also be provided for all other waste products.

Recycling is just one way to help reduce waste that is taking up space in landfills. Much of the garbage produced has the potential to be recycled, preventing the waste of potentially useful materials. We can all make conscious efforts to reduce the consumption of Earth’s natural resources and minimize air and water pollution. Choosing not to recycle may not affect us immediately, but it will affect the people that will call us their ancestors.

Join in the effort. Keep Native Land Clean, Go Green!



# Reintegration Program moves forward

by Joshua Slane  
MNN Reporter

HENRYETTA –The Executive Branch of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation offers many services to its citizens, but not all citizens have been able to receive help effectively. One population that has been hard to help is people recently released from prison. As a result of this inadequacy, Principal Chief A.D. Ellis authorized, in September 2004, the development of a department specifically designed to help Creek citizens who fall into these rare assistance circumstances.

In March 2005, the program was initially staffed under the Health Department in the Behavioral Health section. However, Chief Ellis later restructured the program within the Executive Branch, in October 2007, and placed it under the Human Development Department where it has successfully remained.

Reintegration is the process of integrating people back into local society as a result of dislocation due to such means as incarceration or treatment. Long terms of incarceration can cause some citizens to become more adapted to life in prison than to daily activity within a local community. The reintegration process involves placing recently-released citizens into society and helping them adjust to a stable lifestyle.

The Reintegration Program is available for Muscogee (Creek) enrolled citizens beginning up to 18 months prior to institutional release and is still available up to two years after release. The Reintegra-



MNN/Joshua Slane

The Reintegration Department holds their 2008 High Honors Harvard University Honoring Nations Award and is currently a finalist for the Ash Institute Democratic Governance award for 2009.

tion staff is able to provide seminars, on location at various prisons, about the services they offer and incorporate the “12 Steps of the Medicine Wheel,” which is a Native American approach to conquering substance addiction. Members of the Reintegration staff may also make recommendations to parole boards; historically, an estimated 90 percent of the participants of the program have been released as a result of the guidance provided by the staff.

Upon release from prison, the Reintegration Program offers citizens a hygiene pack which includes common items such as soap, shampoo, razors and shaving cream. Pro-

gram participants are also provided with reintegration T-shirts and a \$250 clothing allowance.

Reintegration staff members are able to search for suitable housing and assist with routine bills such as monthly rent and a security deposit for a few months while the citizen builds a stable foundation in the community. Additional services provided include developing interviewing skills, computer skills, and constructing résumés.

As of January 2009, the Reintegration Program has served over 400 people. Approximately 97.1 percent of the program participants have not become habitual re-offenders

compared to the nation-wide average of 33 percent.

In addition to their amazing numbers of successful reintegrations the Reintegration Program has won a number of awards, including: 2008 High Honors Harvard University Honoring Nations, 2008 Nominated Oklahoma Department of Corrections Volunteers of the Year, 2008 interviewed by *In-Sites* magazine, an online magazine by Office of Justice Programs. They have also won the float competition at the Creek Nation Festival Parade for the past two years. In 2009, the program is a finalist in the Ash Institute Democratic Governance award.

## Community Calendar

### • MCN Social Services offers heating assistance


TULSA—The Social Services Department offers two programs in the winter for heating assistance. We will continue to take applications through March 31, 2009, or until funds are exhausted.

LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) is available for low-income families residing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation service boundaries. Tribal Energy is available for elders (55 and older) or those receiving disability benefits through the Social Security Administration.


Applicants may choose to apply by several ways including: In person there is no appointment is necessary and clients will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis at 2971 N. Wood Drive, by mail – please mail all documents to: MCN Social Services, Attn: LIHEAP or Tribal Energy, PO Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447. Fax to (918) 759-9988 and include a cover sheet addressed to LIHEAP or Tribal Energy. In your community, please bring all your documents to the field site. A Social Services caseworker is available every month in chartered communities between 9:30 and 11a.m., on specified days.

Those who wish to apply should provide: tribal cards and Social Security cards for everyone in the household, gas bill, propane vendor, wood vendor (Electric bill only if you are total electric), copies of all income sources, phone number, authorization for Social Services to sign the application (if mailing or faxing), non-duplication statement (detailing any assistance received in the past 12 months from any agency with utilities, and/or deposits.

Allow at least 45 days for processing and contact Social Services at (918) 759 - 2334 for additional information.



MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
**Communications**  
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PROGRAMS



# LIFESTYLES

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### *Tama Ray Cook*

STILLWATER — Tama Ray Cook graduated from Oklahoma State University on Dec. 13, 2008.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Management.

She is the daughter of Dale and Regina Cook.

Maternal grandparents are Tommy and Carolyn Jones.

Paternal grandparents are Homer and Anna Cook.

Maternal great grandparents are the late Adam and Hattie Jones.

Paternal great grandparents are Cecil and Ruby James. She is of the Bear Clan and the Coweta Tribal Town.



### *Ricardo Cullen Johnson*

OKLAHOMA CITY — Ricardo Cullen Johnson is an 11th grader at Dove Science Academy in Oklahoma City. He recently was placed on the Honor Roll with a GPA of 3.54.

He is the son of Marvin E. Johnson, Jr. He is the great grandson of the late Jeanetta Barnett Johnson.

On May 8, 2008 he earned an Oklahoma County tuition grant sponsored by Langston University for his outstanding performance on the 2008 Oklahoma Heritage Scholarship Competition.



## BIRTHDAYS

### *Mahiya Ramirez*

TULSA — Mihya Serena Ramirez celebrated her sixth birthday with a Hannah Montana party on Dec 13.

She is the daughter of Luis and Sheila Ramirez and a sister to Daniel Ramirez and Robert Ramirez.

Her maternal Grandparents are Amos and Pauline Rabbit.

Paternal grandparents are Jose and Carmen Ramirez.

She attends Union City Christian Academy and is of the Racoon Clan and the Nuyaka Tribal Town.



### *Kiya Benjamin Haney-Powell*

OKMULGEE — Kiya Benjamin Haney-Powell celebrated his fourth birthday with a Transformers party on Dec 9.

He is the son of Cameron Powell and Jamie Haney and a brother to TaKoma Waggnor.

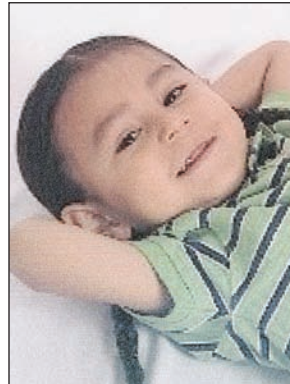
Maternal grandparents are Willie, Sr. and Kathy Haney.

Paternal grandparents are Jerry and Karen Powell.

Maternal great grandparents are the late Woodrow and the late Hattie Haney and the late Wesley, Sr. and the late Joan Dunn.

Paternal great grandparents are the late Benjamin and Christine Harjo and Arthur Powell and Mary Kelly.

He is of the Bear Clan.



## BIRTHS

### *William Allan Bevenue Jr.*

MIRAMAR, Fla., — William Allan Bevenue, Jr. was born on Oct. 18, at the Miramar Regional Hospital.

He weighted six pounds six ounces and was 18 and a half inches in length.

He is the son of William and Sheila Bevenue.

His siblings are Levi, Sabre, and Trinity.

Grandparents are Alfred and Bobbie Bevenue.

Great grand parents are Joe Don and Judy Billie.

He is of the Bear Clan.



### *Evan Jacob Faulk*

TULSA — Evan Jacob Faulk was born on Oct. 3 at St. Francis Hospital.

He weighted seven pounds 12 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

He is the son of Justin and Samantha Faulk.

Grandparents are Joe and Virginia Rangel and Mark and Sheralynn Faulk.

Great grandparents are the late Leonard and Mary Bevenue, the late Mary Mitchell, Ted and Joan Braucht, the late Bill Faulk and Mainne Faulk.

He is of the Bird Clan.



## Birthdays, Births & Special Announcements!

### Birthday:

Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme of the party: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Clan: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Town: \_\_\_\_\_



### Birth:

Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ pounds \_\_\_\_\_ ounces \_\_\_\_\_ inches

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Clan: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Town: \_\_\_\_\_



### Announcements:

Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Clan: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach announcement



PLEASE SEND PHOTO(S) To: MCN Communications Dept. • P.O. Box 580 • Okmulgee, OK 74447



# Muscogee citizen remembered for his love of family, tribe, country and Indian sports

by **Gerald Wofford**  
*MNN Feature Reporter*

OKMULGEE — This story isn't necessarily about sports, but pays tribute to someone that certainly enjoyed both watching and competing in sports. Doctor Harry Long, who was also a reverend, passed away last month at the age of 87. Long was a unique Muscogee minister and mentor who witnessed the tribe develop immensely during the 20th century.

Long, like so many Indian children of his generation, grew up in a boarding school. While attending Bacone College during the 1920s, Long participated in both football and track. He often recalled fond memories of the "good" Indian athletes and boxing teams he saw as a student.

While America was engaged in World War II, Long responded to the call of duty and enlisted in the United States Marines Corps. As a young Marine, Long would see combat action in the Pacific and would experience some of the bloodiest battles in the war to include the Battle of Iwo Jima.

A few years ago, Reverend Long shared a story with me about his time before he left for the Marines. He said that it was a week before he was to report for camp. His family knew that he would be leaving soon, but no one said anything special to him



MNN/Ruth Bible

Harry Long (above) lived a fulfilling and prosperous life and was a true blessing to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Long lived at a time when the tribe experienced historical changes. Long preached throughout Indian country and served as a missionary. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Reverend, and Doctor, Harry Long was the Creek Nation's official minister.

or treated him any different that week. Long said that he grew up in a family that was reserved and did not always show their feelings. This didn't really bother him. Actually, he was more worried about his parents, brothers, and sister and concerned that they would be all right while he was gone.

Finally, the morning came that Long had to leave. He had to get up early and walk into town to

catch a bus. He got ready quietly, his bag was packed, and he walked to the screen door and opened it slowly so the noise wouldn't wake anyone. The sun would be coming up in a few minutes. He took one look around the house and then walked out. The dirt road from the house led to the main road. The sun was just starting to come up now. As Long walked on that road, it began to hit him that his

life was really going to change now, and if he should ever make it back home, things would never be the same as before. As he got closer to the main road, he turned around to look one more time at the old house. This time, his mother was standing on the porch, and looking at him. It was enough for him to know that he was loved by his family,... hopefully the tribe let him know as well.

## OLD SCHOOL vs. NEW SCHOOL

### Is Sam Bradford's Heisman win the single greatest moment in Native American sports history?

by **Gerald Wofford**  
*MNN Feature Writer*

What a question! To give the proper answer to this can be so broad and even complicated.

One can't help but go back and begin to remember all the unique history of Native American athletic history to begin to search for this.

Of course, the man considered the greatest athlete of the last century-Jim Thorpe, was of the Sac and Fox tribe. Perhaps not only his gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Stockholm Olympic games, his appointment as the first President of the National Football League, his professional baseball playing days with the New York Giants, and even his winning a ballroom dance championship proved his great sports lineage.

But his time, to say the least, has passed, in three years his historic accomplishments at Stockholm will be

a hundred years old. No one is alive that remembers being there. So in that sense, answering this question can be more like, how far back in history do you go?

Indian country has certainly embraced Bradford, and whether he is prepared for it or not, and can trace back his Indigenous heritage or not, Native Americans are going to want to connect with him and identify him as one of their own. So in that sense, if you ask someone today, who may not know, or care, about the great history of Native American athletes, this young man from Oklahoma City who states that he is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and his winning of the 2008 Heisman Trophy may very well be the greatest single moment in Native American sports history. Lets hope he adds to it like Thorpe.

by **Jason Salsman**  
*MNN Sports Reporter*

Although it was a nice moment for modern-day Native youngsters to have as a source of inspiration, it is definitely not the greatest. One part of me leans toward the Bradford story, but I just can't give it that acclaim. One, there are too many false claims out there that Bradford was the first Native American to win the Heisman Trophy. Sam wasn't even the first from OU, that title went to Mr. Billy Vessels, who had even more Indian ancestry than Slingin' Sam. And two, there are so many more out there that I think a de-facto beauty pageant (which the Heisman Trophy and all its hoopla have become) does not deserve to take the cake. I have to hand it to my boy G-Woff over there. Nobody will ever, EVER, be able to take away from the accomplishments of Jim Thorpe and his unbelievable

feats on the gridiron and in so many other sports. But my moment is one that will be forever remembered in sports history as "The Kick." It comes to us courtesy of an Oglala Sioux from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation named Billy Mills. Mills excelled in track at Haskell Indian Nations University before moving on to stardom at the University of Kansas. But it was the final kick in the 10,000 meter run at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics where Mills would put his stamp on history. Sprinting past world-record holder Ron Clarke at the finish, Mills became just the second Native American to win an Olympic gold medal and the first American to win the 10,000 meter event. To this day, it is still considered by many to be the greatest upset in the history of the Olympic Games.

## Sports Calendar

### • Native Sports Rush set for debut

OKMULGEE — The Native Sports Rush, a 30-minute monthly showcase of sports from an Indian perspective, debuts on Tulsa's CW 12/19 on Jan. 31, at 2 p.m.

The show, the first of its kind in the state of Oklahoma, will feature a roundtable discussion of Native sports journalists coupled with packaged stories on Indian sports stars of the past, present and future.

Hosting the show will be Muscogee Nation News Sports Reporter Jason Salsman (Muscogee), along with Gerald Wofford (Cherokee), and the President of the Native American Boxing Commission. Joining as analysts will be Brent Cahwee, co-creator of the popular ndnsports.com web site, and Eric Bailey who serves as Beat Writer at the Tulsa World covering Tulsa Golden Hurricane Athletics.

"We're really excited about this opportunity to tell our side of the story in the sports world," said Salsman, who serves as the show's producer.

Salsman noted that the show will definitely be unique with a human interest twist on most of the stories and will highlight rising Native athletes on the horizon of super-stardom. According to Salsman, the show will not only concentrate on current competition, but intends to honor the Native athletes that created a legacy of success in Indian Country.

"It will be nice to give proper recognition to guys like Allie Reynolds and Jack Jacobs. Guys that maybe never got the appreciation that their talents deserved when they were still with us."

The show will make its introduction on the CW Network (Tulsa 12/19) on Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. Tune in for The Native Sports Rush debut of "It's Game Time."

# ATHLETICS



• National Museum of the American Indian internships available

WASHINGTON, D.C., — The National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian is offering internship opportunities for summer, spring, fall and winter.

Internships are available for Native American students who may be placed in a variety of departments at the George Gustav Heye Center in New York City, the Mall Museum in Washington, D.C., or the Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Md.

Areas of study include research, archives, photography, exhibits and education (such as developing curriculum and working with school groups who tour through the museum).

The deadline for Summer 2009 internships will be Fri., Feb. 6, 2009. For more information, please contact Jill Norwood at (301) 238-1541 or e-mail her [norwoodj@si.edu](mailto:norwoodj@si.edu). Applications are also available online at [www.AmericanIndian.si.edu](http://www.AmericanIndian.si.edu). Click on “outreach” then “Internships.”

• Call to Native craftsmen for Creek Festival 2009

OKMULGEE — Tourism and Recreation would like to extend an invitation to all artisans in the chartered Creek communities to participate in the 2009 Festival.

If you or someone you know is an artist or craftsman, consider purchasing a 15’x20’ booth space at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival in June 2009.

For more information, contact Brian On-The-Hill in Tourism and Recreation at Muscogee (Creek) Nation at (918) 732-7993 by early January 2009 to be put on the mailing list to receive booth applications in February 2009. Deadline for submission of applications is 5 p.m. Mon., March 30, 2009.

MCN Head Start celebrates 30 years of child care



MNN/Starla Bush

Pictured above from left to right (top row) are Susanna Barnett and J.B. Fish. Seated are Betty Smith, Danetta Tate, Barbara O’Neil and Pat Wind. The current staff of the Head Start program celebrated 30 years of service with the Nation on Fri., Jan. 9, 2009.

by Rebecca Landsberry  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Head Start program celebrated 30 years of operation on Fri., Jan. 9, where past and present employees were recognized for their service, dedication and commitment to the program.

Executive Director Claude

Sumner recounted his older brother reading stories of “Spot” and “Jane” in the third grade. When he was three years old, Claude remembers picking up the ability to read, which gave him a head start. “You’re [head start workers] the secret, probably, to how they view the future in education, growth

and personal development,” Sumner stated.

Sumner explained that all the hard work from the employees has paid off for the tribe. “You’re the reason, in 30 years, there has been a lot of people come through this Nation and get that head start,” Sumner said.

Class

Continued from 1

The class will begin on Thurs. Jan. 15 at 12 noon for one hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Spring 2009 semester. Distance learning utilizing interactive internet TV at the OSU-Okmulgee campus is the method of delivery for this class.

This class is a collaboration between the Creek Council House Museum, Emory University and the IT department of OSU-Okmulgee. Craig Womack, Creek citizen and former professor at the University of Oklahoma, will teach the class.

He is now a professor in the English department at Emory University in Atlanta.

Womack has taught classes on Creek Literature while at OU, but this represents his first class on Creek writings from the homelands. This brings out the intriguing and monumental aspect of this class, that of our homelands once again playing host to the culture and language that is indigenous to the area, the Mvskokvlke. This class can also be the bridge between the two areas of Creek people, those who were left behind and those who were forced to leave. The class is part of newly formed efforts to re-discover aboriginal inhabitants

and civilizations.

The class will be giving some basic language instruction to help discuss some of the various language and cultural aspects of various authors. Topics covered will include the Earnest Gouge stories, GW Grayson and the Fus Fixico letters by Alex Posey. In March, the various migration legends and some discussion on various church writings will be reviewed. Betty Mae Jumper and short writings from other authors along with the differences between the oral tradition and the written form will also be discussed. Storytelling, oratory, religious and songs are

Okmulgee opens new smoke shop

Media Release  
Okmulgee Indian Community

OKMULGEE — The new Okmulgee Indian Community smoke shop is tentatively scheduled to open for business on Mon., Feb. 2, 2009.

Located south of Okmulgee on the corner of Highway 75 and 36th St., the new shop will be drive-thru accessible and along with tobacco products, will offer convenience store items such as snack foods and hot/cold beverages.

Next door to the facility will a tourism kiosk and gift shop featuring Native-made arts and crafts. Tourists arriving in Okmulgee will be able to learn about Creek Nation and its activities. As a member of the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce, information about the city of Okmulgee will also be available.

The Okmulgee Indian Community was chartered in Dec. 1983 and has operated the old smoke shop on Wood Drive for 15 years when they originally leased the building from the Red Rooster Convenience Store.

some of the other forms which will be looked at.

Once again, the schedule for this Spring semester will be from 12 noon until 1:05 p.m., on Tues. and Thurs., beginning Jan. 15. We will be meeting in room 226 of the Reynolds Technology building on the Okmulgee campus.

There will be no cost to attend, but please come prepared to discuss the topic at hand according to the syllabus schedule. For a copy of the syllabus, please contact Ted Isham at the Creek Council House Museum at (918) 756-2324 or by e-mail at [curator@sbcglobal.net](mailto:curator@sbcglobal.net).

Cuko Hvmecvlke Family Members

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M V I T P Z N S R O H K T M H  
F B U Y A R V K Y K P U C A C  
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